



Dear Friend,

Welcome to *TEC Connects*! Your monthly newsletter. You will find that it is filled with educational information, helpful hints and tips, events, news and even some product offerings. Our focus is *connection* and we want to bring value to you and your passion for Christian Education so please, please share your feedback and suggestions with us. Perhaps you have a great event, photo, story or quote you would like to share with us. Please do send them in. We also love to hear your questions and comments, so stay in touch.

We hope you enjoy this month's *Connects*!

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MINDSET by Tina Lamont

This year, one of my teaching heroes, Carol Dweck is speaking at the [Edutech Conference](#) in Sydney. Professor Dweck is an esteemed Stanford University psychologist who has spent many years researching the link between success and achievement. She makes it known that it is our mindset that matters. The more I read her work, the more I see links to what Jesus said 2000 years ago. Remember those verses in Romans; *be transformed by the renewing of your mind*. Dweck encourages us to renew our minds, rather than having a fixed mindset. We need to develop a growth mindset. She is talking not just to students, but also to teachers and parents.



With the right mindset, we can motivate our students and help them to improve in school, at home and in the community. Our brains can create a love of learning and a resilience that is the basis of achievement and success. As teachers and parents we can influence the brain development of our students, by showing and reinforcing to them the 'not yet' principle. We can achieve with strong effort and perseverance and it has little to do with our intelligence but more to do with our mindset. We now have scientific research data proving that we can grow our intelligence.

I encourage you to read '*Mindset*', Carol S. Dweck, Ballantine Books, 2006.

RESOURCE OF THE MONTH

Carol S. Dweck 'The Power of Yet' - "Developing a growth mindset"



WHAT IS TRUTH? *by Stephen Fyson*

It seems we live in an era when agreeing on what is true can be hard – very hard. My mind goes back to that classic Johnny Cash song called *What is Truth?*

Here is the last verse:

*The young girl dancing to the latest beat
Has found new ways to move her feet
The young man speaking in the city square
Is trying to tell somebody that he cares
Yeah, the ones that you're calling wild
Are going to be the leaders in a little while
This old world's wakin' to a newborn day
And I solemnly swear that it'll be their way
You better help the voice of youth find
"What is truth?"*

Johnny Cash (1970) Warner/Chappell Music

Johnny Cash was a Christian who called himself 'the worst sinner of all'. Yet the words to this song are as pertinent today as they were in 1970. The last two lines could be a clarion call to Christian schools in 2017. Surely that is a deep part of why we exist – to discover truth and its complement, grace (as John the Apostle reminds us in describing Jesus).

Another classic piece of writing from the 1970's is Arthur Holmes' *All Truth is God's*



Truth. If you were interested in starting to think Biblically about truth, this would be a great starting place. Here is a taste of what Holmes wrote:

As creator and lord of all, his [Jesus'] self-revelation brings truth into focus, uncovers the basis of its unity, and reaffirms its universality. To know him is the key to seeing things as a meaningful whole. [p.36]

To read more summary notes of Holmes, [click here](#)



Why not check out some of Stephen's other writings in our weekly 'Care Conversation' [found here](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING

LOOKING BACK AT HOPE CONFERENCE 2017

We are passionate about Christian Education and love bringing the community together. Recently we began the year with Hope Conference focusing on Mission. A

time of sharing, inspiring and learning together.

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. (Matthew 29:11, NIV)



Dr Ted Boyce speaking at Hope 2017 Conference

[To see more Hope 2017 images click here](#)

SCHOOLS LEARNING TOGETHER



We hope you will join us for a series of special seminars we will be hosting this year. Bringing Schools together, to learn and share together.

Our first one is on February 22nd at 3.30pm at Pacific Hills Christian School, with special guest, Sally Egan, Director of Improvement Strategy, Pymble Ladies College who will be sharing on the theme: ***“Using Data to Improve Learning.”***

For more info regarding these seminars, [go to our events page.](#)

NESA COURSES



TEC is currently running one of our NESA courses ***“Feedback to Improve Student Performance”*** at Pacific Hills Christian School.

We have a calendar out now of course dates for Term 1 and 2 [please visit our course page on the website.](#)

There is much happening in the life of TEC so keep a watch on our website and Facebook page

www.theexcellencecentre.org

CONNECT WITH TEC



Blog posts by Dr Ted Boyce:

[Beyond Expectations](#)

[Teach to Learn](#)

[Unity and Diversity](#)

[Developing Minds Christianly](#)

[Serving others, sacrificially, generously and with joy](#)

[God has given, so what is our response?](#)



We're building a global community and sharing the Gospel through Social Media.

- Motivation Monday
- Verse of the Day
- News & Info
- Quotes
- Upcoming Events
- Much More

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